

DETAILED ACTION

1. The instant application is a national stage entry of PCT/JP04/03645, filed 5 November 2004.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-19, drawn to a compound formula I in which X is C and A is defined as a pyrrolidine or octahydrocyclopenta[c]pyrrole ring, a composition comprising the same, and a method of using the same.

Group II, claim(s) 1-9, 12, 18-19, drawn to a compound formula I in which X is C and A is defined as a piperidine ring, a composition comprising the same, and a method of using the same.

Group III, claim(s) 1-4, 6-9, 15, 16, 18, 19, drawn to a compound formula I in which X is C and A is defined as an azetidine ring, a composition comprising the same, and a method of using the same.

Group IV, claim(s) 1-5, 12, 18, 19, drawn to a compound formula I in which X is C or N and A is defined as a ring with the following combinations: when z is zero or two, variable q is zero, one, two, or three; and when z is one, q is zero, two, or three, a composition comprising the same, and a method of using the same.

3. The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: lack of unity exists between all of the various combinations of A and X. Twenty-four different combinations of variables A and X (twelve for A and two for X) exist in formula I. Invention I does not encompass any of the other inventions because of the ring system for variable A (on the same note, inventions II and III do not encompass any other invention). Thus, no special technical feature exists. Further restriction may be necessary.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NOBLE JARRELL whose telephone number is (571)272-9077. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 A.M - 6:00 P.M. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. James O. Wilson can be reached on (571) 272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1624

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Noble Jarrell/
Examiner, Art Unit 1624